April 1991

United Nations
International Drug Control Programme
P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria

information letter

UNDCP Admitted to ACC

The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) has been accepted as a member in its own right in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC). The decision was taken at the first regular session of ACC, which was held at Unesco Headquarters in Paris from 17 to 19 April 1991. The UNDCP was represented by its recently appointed Executive Director, Giorgio Giacomelli.

The ACC, whose task is to ensure co-ordination within the United Nations system, is composed of the executive heads of all specialized agencies and of major United Nations programmes. It is chaired by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs Opened by UNDCP Executive Director

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs is addressing its role and functioning as a policy-making body at its thirty-fourth session from 29 April to 9 May 1991 at Vienna.

The session was opened by Giorgio Giacomelli, the newly appointed Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), who noted that the Commission was meeting at an important moment in the history of United Nations activities in international drug abuse control.

For excerpts of the Executive Director's opening statement, see page 3

The Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, UNDCP, Francisco Ramos-Galino, also addressed the opening session of the Commission.

Attending are more than 400 delegates from the 40 Member States and from 60 countries participating in an observer capacity. In addition, observers from 10 intergovernmental organizations and 31 non-governmental organizations were present.

Established in 1946 as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission is the main policy-making body within the United Nations system in matters of international drug abuse control.

The Commission elected as its Chairman Robbert J. Samsom of the Netherlands, where he has been Deputy Director-General of Health since 1986. Mr. Samsom, who first attended the Commission in 1968, has served as Vice-Chairman since 1989.

The Commission elected three Vice-Chairmen: Eugenio Anguiano (Mexico), Dato' Zainal Mahmood (Malaysia) and Mamadou Lamine Fofana (Senegal). Elected to serve as Rapporteur was István Bayer (Hungary).

In addition to the Bureau, an expanded group of Friends of the Chairman was elected to assist him in the conduct of the session, on the basis of candidates from regional groups: Georges Vilain XIIII

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Robbert J. Samsom, Netherlands (right), receiving congratulations on his election as Chairman of the thirty-fourth session of the Commission from UNDCP Executive Director Giorgio Giacomelli, who had just opened the session. In his opening statement, the Executive Director outlined his views on two of the major topics relating to the establishment of the UNDCP and on the enhancement of the functioning of the Commission as a policy-making body.

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Lao Minister Calls for Improved Collaboration

During his visit to Austria in February 1991, Soubanh Srithirath, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, discussed with senior officials ways and means of strengthening drug control activities in his country.

Discussions focused on a wide range of issues, including a four-year project in integrated rural development, with a total budget of US$ 6 million which had started in August 1989.

The project aims at progressive elimination of opium poppy cultivation through a co-ordinated programme of development of a social, economic and administrative infrastructure and substitution of crops. The project is progressing in the improvement of roads, training activities and social and health services.

In 1990, preparations were made for a second large-scale integrated rural development project covering opium producing areas in Xieng Khouang Province. UNDCP's technical assistance would be carried out in conjunction with a soft loan from the International Fund for Agricultural Development and a proposed Japanese bilateral contribution for equipment. The project starts operation in 1991.

Zambia Hosts Workshop

A Workshop on Drug Investigation, Prosecution and Related Co-operation was held in Livingstone, Zambia, from 25 to 28 February 1991.

The Workshop addressed issues deriving from the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, such as extradition, mutual legal assistance, confiscation, controlled delivery, joint investigation teams, interdiction in international waters and anti-corruption strategies and assistance.

Convened by the Division of Narcotic Drugs for Southern African countries, the Workshop was opened by the Zambian Minister of Home Affairs, General G. K. Chinkuli.

Attending were 25 senior legal officers from Botswana, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Swaziland, Tanzania and Uganda.

West Africa

UNDCP Project Under Way

To help West African States cope with rapidly increasing illicit drug trafficking and abuse, the UNDCP is carrying out a programme of assistance for 13 States in the sub-region.

The project is designed to reinforce and harmonize national controls in the sub-region over narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, particularly as they relate to licit trade and distribution of these substances. The goal is to eliminate diversion from licit commerce to the illicit traffic while allowing medicines to reach those who need them.

The project involves assessments of existing national drug control systems; drafting harmonized national drug control legislation; training of national drug control administrators, pharmacy inspectors; and identification of future actions.

Initiated in 1989, the current phase of the project is to be completed in 1992. Voluntary contributions from Italy and the United States of America made it possible for the UNDCP to complete the first phase of the project (1989-1990); resources provided by France will facilitate completion of the second phase (1991-1992).

Beneficiary countries are expected to include Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Details on the deliberations and outcome of the thirty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs will be included in the next issue of the UNDCP Information Letter scheduled for distribution next month.

African HONLEA Endorses Regional Training Strategy

Law enforcement officers from 34 African States adopted a resolution calling for the monitoring of the implementation of regional HONLEA recommendations as they concluded the Fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Africa, from 15 to 19 April 1991 at Nairobi.

Organized by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the meeting was opened by a representative of the UNDCP Executive Director who gave an overview of the situation in Africa and outlined the reforms now underway at the United Nations in order to respond more efficiently to the needs of Member States.

The meeting also endorsed a training strategy prepared by the UNDCP in consultation with Interpol and the Customs Co-operation Council. It proposed the preparation of a consolidated document outlining the strategy and its practical application.

Great concern was expressed over the alarming increase in heroin abuse in African countries. Several representatives reported record seizures, particularly of cannabis, heroin, amphetamines and methaqualone, and the arrest and prosecution of an increasing number of persons for drug-related offences.

Opening statements were also made by the Kenyan Minister of State for Internal Security and by the Kenyan Commissioner of Police.

The meeting elected Peter Masemo Kimanthi (Kenya) as Chairman; Gondo Tro Emile (Côte d'Ivoire) and I.J. Mtambo (Malawi), Vice-Chairmen; Tahiri Nour Eddine (Morocco), Rapporteur.

Attending were representatives from: Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Also present were observers from seven countries outside the region, two IGOs and one specialized agency.

New UNDCP Executive Director Opens Commission on Narcotic Drugs .....

from page 1

(Belgium), Jaime Giraldo Angel (Colombia), Maurice Randrianame (Madagascar), Rana Chandar Sing (Pakistan) and Todor Staikov (Bulgaria).

Because of conditions prevailing in the world earlier this year and in order to ensure a fuller and more active participation by all members of the Commission, its thirty-fourth session, initially planned for 30 January to 9 February 1991, was postponed.

In preparation for this session of the Commission, Permanent Missions at Vienna held five informal open-ended consultations on 6 and 17 December 1990, 14 and 28 January and 15 April 1991 to discuss questions relating to the organization of work for the session as well as means and ways of improving the functioning of the Commission as a policy-making body.

The five consultations were chaired on a rotating basis on behalf of the regional groups in Vienna by Roland M. Timerbae (Soviet Union) for the Eastern European Group, Richard Wotava (Austria) for the Western European and Others Group, Fawzi Salloukh (Lebanon) for the Asian Group, Mervat Talawy (Egypt) for the African Group and Eugenio Anguiano Roch (Mexico) for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries.

The objective of such informal consultations was to harmonize the positions of the various groups and delegations so as to provide guidance to the Commission in its consideration of ways and means of improving its functioning as a policy-making body. A background note reflecting the deliberations of the above consultations is before the Commission as document E/CN.7/1991/24.

In accordance with decision 1991/201 of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission established an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole in order to assist it in the consideration of ways and means of improving the functioning of the Commission. This Committee was chaired by Ambassador Anguiano (Mexico).

Other issues before the Commission include the implementation of the international drug control treaties; situation and trends in drug abuse and the illicit traffic; programme of future work and priorities; and enlargement of the membership of the Commission.

The Commission is presently composed of the following Member States: **Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Gambia, Ghana, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Yugoslavia.**

In his opening statement, the Executive Director noted that the new UNDCP, which he had been heading since 1 March 1991, was to integrate fully the three existing United Nations drug control units. The first steps had been taken to establish the new structure, as mandated in General Assembly resolution 45/179.

Under this mandate, the Executive Director was charged with executing the integration process and given exclusive responsibility for co-ordinating and providing leadership for all United Nations drug control activities. The objective was to ensure coherence of action within the Programme, as well as co-ordination, complementarity and non-duplication of such activities across the system.

Mr. Giacomelli said that there was a requirement for an early definition of the priorities of the new, unified Programme. The sheer number of treaties, General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions, and Plans and Programmes adopted at the global or regional level was staggering.

While this reflected the complexity of the drug problem, too many blueprints might lead to uncertainty and even confusion. It would be most useful to rationalize and amalgamate these instruments, so as to facilitate the handling of individual issues and reduce their number in the future.

He expressed concern over the unchecked increase in initiatives undertaken by a growing number of organizations inside and outside the United Nations system. Care would have to be taken to ensure that these efforts, which could no doubt all be of value, were properly harmonized. He urged all concerned to ensure that whatever initiatives were considered, their relationship with activities under the UNDCP umbrella was always borne in mind.

In conclusion, the Executive Director emphasized that it was for the Commission to assume responsibility as the central guiding force of United Nations drug control efforts. A clear message should emerge that the Commission was determined to play the role envisaged for it.

This would, among other consequences, lend greater credibility and the required administrative consistency to the decision made to establish UNDCP. It was for the Governments represented at the Commission to decide in the coming days how to proceed in this matter. He stressed the extreme importance of this process and expressed his willingness to provide any assistance that the Commission might require.

READEX FICHE

UNDCP to Increase Assistance to Zaire

Mitheo Lola Mara Tumba, Minister for the Status of Women and Family of Zaire, held talks with senior officials of the drug control entities in February 1991 at Vienna to explore ways and means of enhancing co-operation between her country and the United Nations in matters of international drug abuse control. Mrs. Mitheo is picured here with Bertrand Juppin de Fondaumière, Deputy Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, UNDCP. As a result of such talks, UNDCP Legal Expert Bernard Leroy went on mission to Zaire to examine with various government agencies the establishment of a national drug control legislation and a national co-ordination mechanism, to advise them on steps leading to the ratification of the 1988 Convention, and to promote mutual legal assistance with neighbouring countries. Another mission is to be sent to Zaire shortly to assess the country's needs in other areas.

Parliamentary Meeting Adopts Declaration

Delegates from the Latin American Parliament and the European Parliament adopted a 62-point Joint Declaration calling, among other things, for a global and common strategy in order to prevent drug abuse and interdict illicit drug trafficking and money laundering.

The Declaration, adopted at the Tenth Interparliamentary Conference European Community/Latin America, also requested all parliaments of participating States to adjust and harmonize, to the extent possible, their national legislation. It called for the development of international mechanisms for judicial co-operation as provided for in the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

It further urged all States which had not yet done so to ratify or adhere to this Convention, in order to achieve its universal applications as early as possible.

The Conference, held in Sevilla from 2 to 6 April 1991, was inaugurated by the King of Spain. Opening statements were also made by the Presidents of the European and the Latin American Parliaments. The UNDCP was represented by Francisco Ramos-Galino, Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs.

CICAD Session Held

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), Organization of American States, held its ninth regular session from 5 to 8 March 1991 at San Juan del Río, Mexico.

The CICAD approved its annual report for 1990 to the General Assembly of the Organization of American States.

Jorge Carrillo Olea (Mexico) was elected Chairman of CICAD for the period 1991-92.

Attending were representatives of 19 States from the region, three States outside the region, as well as observers from seven intergovernmental bodies and United Nations entities.

The United Nations International Drug Control Programme was represented by Francisco Ramos-Galino, Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs.

ESCAP Region

Meeting Urges Adherence To 1988 Convention

A Declaration calling for regional co-operation in combating illicit trafficking and drug abuse in Asia and the Pacific was adopted at a meeting of senior drug control officials held at Tokyo from 13 to 15 February 1991.

The 8-point Tokyo Declaration on Enhanced Regional Co-operation for Drug Abuse Control in Asia and the Pacific urged all countries to ratify or acced to United Nations drug control treaties, particularly the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. It calls on Governments, to the extent possible, to apply provisionally the terms of that Convention.

The Declaration also called for the strengthening of efforts to implement a sub-regional strategy in co-operation with the UNDCP.

Tetsuya Endo (Japan) served as Chairman of the meeting.

Organized by the Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific, the meeting was attended by representatives of 44 countries and seven specialized agencies and United Nations entities.

New York and Vienna NGO Committees Meet

On 12 March 1991, the New York NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse examined the participation of its member organizations in the thirty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Vienna, 29 April to 9 May 1991).

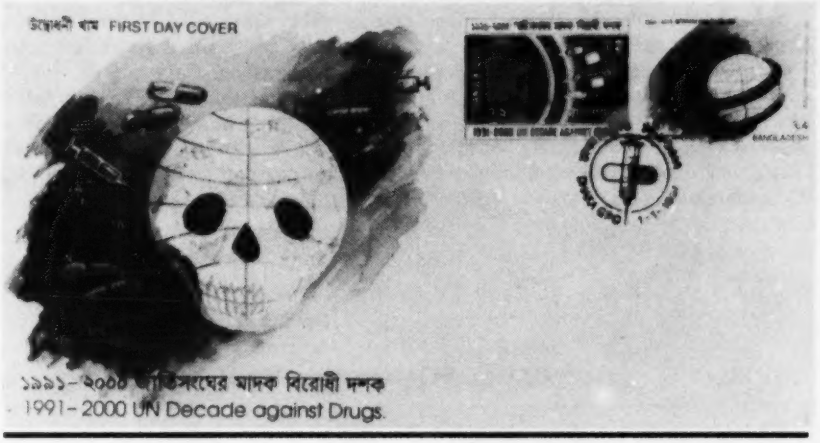
The Committee discussed plans to undertake activities in collaboration with other NGO Committees concerning the Economic and Social Council resumed first regular session of 1991 (17 to 21 June) and the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26 June 1991).

A number of participants reported on activities carried out by their individual organizations. Such activities included the observance of the Lions International Day with the United Nations (11 March 1991) at the UN Headquarters with some 500 people participating. The UN Secretary-General made an address.

Preparations for the Commission's thirty-fourth session and the 1991 International Day were examined at a meeting of the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs held on 8 April 1991 at the Vienna International Centre.

Participants were briefed on a special NGO activity undertaken in Moscow in March 1991 and on developments relating to the enhancement of the role of the United Nations in matters of international drug control.

Bangladesh Issues Stamps To Mark United Nations Decade



১৯৯১–২০০০ জাতিসংঘের মাদক বিরোধী দশক
1991–2000 UN Decade against Drugs

New NGO Association Created in Moscow

Some 700 participants attended a special ceremony held on 1 and 2 March 1991 in Moscow where the International Association against Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse was presented for the first time to the public. Activities undertaken on that occasion included a press conference, a charity concert, a fund-raising auction and several video presentations on drug-related problems in the Soviet Union. The ceremony was telecast live worldwide.

The Association was founded in March 1990 as an international voluntary non-governmental organization to support drug abuse control activities by governmental agencies and NGOs, as well as initiatives from the private sector. It seeks to help implement demand reduction programmes and establish a network of treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration centres. The Association also supports efforts to interdict illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Attending were senior officials from the Soviet Ministries of the Interior, Health and Justice as well as representatives of the Soviet Customs Administration and Parliament. Also present were local businessmen, representatives of charity and non-governmental organizations, the International Criminal Police Organization, police organizations of several European countries, as well as a representative of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

Drug Abuse Assessment System Launched

Work has begun on the International Drug Abuse Assessment System (IDAAS) and the first examples of how it can help better understanding and analysis of the drug problem worldwide are now available.

The idea behind IDAAS, the establishment of which was requested by the Commission and endorsed by the General Assembly, is to improve the way the United Nations compiles and analyzes data on drug abuse worldwide.

IDAAS has developed standardized procedures for reporting. A means has also been established for organizing previously collected drug abuse information so that realistic comparisons can be made of trends during the last few years.

The system allows for inclusion of qualitative or descriptive information as well as quantitative data. It has also been organized so that any country without an existing database can participate in it. Built into it are mechanisms for improving the quality of data over time.

It should therefore become an increasingly useful tool for decision-makers on drug policy. IDAAS will provide a more accurate appraisal of the nature and extent of drug abuse and will offer analyses of trends and patterns; it should also assist in the evaluation of programmes, the setting of priorities and the identification of successful policies and programmes, as well as greatly facilitating the exchange of information.

IDAAS works by computerizing data reported by Governments, searching other databases for relevant information, collecting other official Government statistics and then analyzing the information using advanced, computerized statistical methods.

Calendar of Events

Government authorities, agencies and bodies within the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as research and other specialized associations are invited to forward to the Executive Director, United Nations International Drug Control Programme, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, information on forthcoming meetings relating to international drug control. Basic data on international events will be published as appropriate in the UNDCP's Information Letter, which is distributed worldwide. This information is intended to assist entities within the United Nations system, as well as other concerned organizations, in scheduling meetings, exchanging results and enhancing co-ordination. The timely receipt of comprehensive information on planned events will be appreciated and greatly assist in the preparation of Calendars of Events.

1991

United Nations System

6-17 May	World Health Organization: World Health Assembly, 44th session.	Geneva
7-9 May	Administrative Committee on Co- ordination: Task Force Panel on Rural Development/Panels on Evaluation and People's Participation.	New York
8-10 May	First Pan-European Ministerial Conference on Co-operation on Drug Abuse Problems.	Oslo
10 May	United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP): Inter-agency Meeting on Co-ordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control.	Vienna
13 May-7 June	Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, 31st session.	New York
20-21 May	WHO, 88th session of the Executive Board.	Geneva
27-31 May	WHO: Workshop on Drug Abuse Policies and Programmes in South Eastern European Countries.	Sofia
27 May-7 June	UNDCP: International Narcotics Control Board, 49th session.	Vienna
5-26 June	International Labour Organisation: General Conference, 78th session.	Geneva
17-21 June	UNDCP: Training Seminar for Drug Control Administrators in Asia.	Beijing
17-21 June	Economic and Social Council, resumed first regular session.	New York
17-28 June	Universal Postal Union: Training Course for Postal Security Officials from Caribbean and Asian Countries.	Washington, D.C.
26 June	**International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**	
11-13 September	UNDCP: Inter-agency Meeting on Co-ordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control.	London
17 September-	General Assembly, 46th session.	New York
23-27 September	UNDCP: Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Europe.	Innsbruck, Austria
1-4 October	UNDCP: Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin America and the Caribbean.	Santa Cruz, Bolivia

7-24 October	UNDCP: International Narcotics Control Board, 50th session.	Vienna
24-25 October	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, second regular session.	New York

Intergovernmental organizations

6-10 May	Customs Co-operation Council: 145th/146th sessions of the Permanent Technical Committee.	Brussels
24-26 June	Customs Co-operation Council, 77th/78th sessions.	Brussels
12-16 August	Commonwealth Secretariat: Oxford Conference on International and White Collar Crime.	Oxford, U.K.
2-26 October	Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD): 10th regular conference.	Washington, D.C.
4-8 November	Interpol: General Assembly, 60th session.	Puenta del Este, Uruguay

Non-governmental Organizations

8 May	NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs.	Vienna
14 May	NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse.	New York
21 June	NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse.	New York
26-28 June	International Centre for Drug Abuse Prevention in Schools (ICDAPS): International Conference on Preventive Education against Drug Abuse in Schools.	Moscow
26-29 June	World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations: World YMCA Workshop on Drugs and Substance Abuse.	Canada
27-29 June	International Federation of NGOs for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse: 2nd ASEAN NGO Workshop on Mobilizing, Training and Deployment of Aftercare Volunteers.	Singapore
9 July	NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse.	New York
1-5 September	International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency: 8th ICPA Congress.	Kuala Lumpur
22-27 September	International Council on Alcohol and Addictions: 19th International Institute on the Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependence.	Montreal, Canada
22-27 September	World Federation of Therapeutic Communities: 14th World Conference of Therapeutic Communities - "Drugs and Society to the Year 2000".	Montreal, Canada
7-11 October	ICDAPS: 3rd International Conference on Drug Abuse Abuse Prevention in Schools.	Brisbane, Australia
28 October-1 November	International Committee on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety: International Workshop on Drugs and Driving.	Padova, Italy
25-29 November	International Federation of Non-Government Organisations: 13th Conference for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse.	Manila

TOWARDS A WORLD FREE FROM DRUG ABUSE

26 JUNE 1991

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

PREVENTING DRUG ABUSE: ALL TOGETHER AGAINST A COMMON THREAT

Information on activities planned to celebrate the 1991 International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking would be welcomed. Printed and audiovisual material can be made available on request to support panel discussions, special exhibits and other commemorative events. Please contact the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, Vienna International Centre, P. O. Box 500, A - 1400 Vienna, Austria, FAX (43+1) 2307002.

UNITED NATIONS DECADE AGAINST DRUG ABUSE 1991 - 2000